

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-8, and 16-21 are pending. Claims 1-6 and 9-15 have been cancelled. Claims 7 and 16 are independent claims.

Floppy Disk

Per the Patent Office's request, Applicant has enclosed a floppy disk containing all pending claims along with Applicant's responsive remarks. Applicant understands that only the paper copy will be entered.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a) & Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-8 and 13-15, 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dancs et al. ("Dancs", U.S. Patent No. 6,385,651) in view of Nessett et al. ("Nessett", U.S. Patent No. 5,727,145). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, Claims 13-15 have been cancelled.

The Patent Office has acknowledged that Claim 16 is objected as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervention claims. Claim 16 is amended into independent form including all of the limitations from Claims 13 and 15 respectively.

Claim 7 has been amended to include all of the limitations of Claims 13, 15 and 16. Thus, Claim 7 is believed to be allowable. Claim 8 is dependent on Claim 7 and Claims 17-21 depend on Claim 16. Thus, Claims 8 and 17-21 are believed to be allowable based on Claims 7 and 16. Applicants wish to seek expeditious issuance of a patent containing claims directed to subject matter found allowable by the Patent Office.

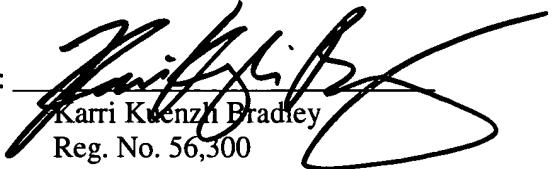
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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By:


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